Doubling of Gooty-Pullampetta rail line

448. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Andhra Pradesh, the Prime Minister announced the doubling of the 151 km. Gooty-Pullampetta line on the Mumbai-Chennai route which will be part of the rail quadrilateral connecting the four main metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) by what time the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched National Rail Vikas Yojana on 26.12.2002 with commencement of work on three projects including doubling of Gooty-Pullampetta. This project is a part of strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral with an anticipated cost of Rs. 305 crore.

(d) The target date for completion of the work has not yet been fixed.

Trial run of fastest train

449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways has conducted a trial run of its fastest train at 180 Km.p.h. in January 2003;

(b) whether indigenously manufactured engine was used for this train or it was an imported engine;

(c) whether trail was successful or not;

(d) whether Government propose to run some other trains at that speed; and

(e) if so, what are the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Trail run of the fastest train was conducted at 150 kilometer/hour in December 2002 on the Konkan Railway.

(b) The locomotive used was imported from General Motors, United States of America. Locos with similar capabilities are however currently under manufacture in Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, in India.

(c) Yes, Sir. It was successful.

(d) The matter is under examination

(e) The details will be worked out after a final decision in this regard is taken.

Dues of Railways on SEBs

450. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on January, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken to collect such dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) A statement is attached indicating the position as on 31.12.2002 since details for January, 2003 will be available only in the next months *i.e.* after closure of January, 2003 Accounts (*See* below).

(b) The steps taken to collect such dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses include:

(1) The Implementation of various schemes of 'Pre-payment of Freight' for carriage of coal to Power Houses.

(2) State Electricity Boards/Power Houses, which fail to observe the conditions of 'Pre-payment of Freight' as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the Railways and regular meetings are held with officials including Chairmen of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.